

ALTMAN SIEGEL

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Shannon Ebner

WET WORDS IN A HOT FIELD

November 16 – December 21, 2019

“How can a camera be so sure that it’s subjects are willing to be seen if not heard, to be in the weather if not destroyed by it, to be in the war if not moving away from it, to be wet words in a hot field.”

Altman Siegel is pleased to present *WET WORDS IN A HOT FIELD*, Shannon Ebner’s third solo exhibition with the gallery.

For this new body of work, Ebner translates the camera’s language, originally culled from 35mm DSLR instruction manuals, into a series of large-scale photographic text fields.

Devoid of the original context and taking on a poetic form, the repurposed phrases turn on the device posing questions about the medium of photography itself — how do we frame? Who and what can be *captured* and by what means? What tries to escape, can’t be seen, refuses or is present but invisible? Ripe with transitory visual elements such as condensation, motion blur, and the touch of a human hand, our attention is directed to the surface, production, and authorship of the image. In this field, subject positions, subjectivities, and the movement of the two in and out of the frame challenge notions of representation.

The audio tracks in the exhibition were originally performed by New York based trumpet player Nate Wooley (American, b. 1974). Recorded in a double height room in Manhattan last spring, the melody originates from *FAREWELL EARTHLY JOY*, a Shaker Spiritual that was first recorded in 1977.

Mazyiar Pahlevan provided design assistance for the works in this exhibition.

Thanks to Jane Hait, Matt Wellins and Nate Wooley.

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Shannon Ebner (B. 1971, Englewood, NJ) has had solo exhibitions in institutions such as the ICA, Miami (2015); Fondazione Memmo, Rome (2014); Hammer Museum/LAXART, Los Angeles (2011); and MoMA PS1, New York (2007) among others. Her work was featured in the 10th Liverpool Biennial in the UK (2018); the 31st Biennial of Graphic Arts, Ljubljana in Slovenia (2015); the 54th Venice Biennale in Italy (2011), the 6th Berlin Biennale of Contemporary Art in Germany (2010), and the Whitney Biennial in New York (2008) among other major group exhibitions.

Publications by Ebner include *A Public Character* (ICA Miami and ROMA, 2016); *A HUDSON YARD*, in collaboration with David Reinfurt (*Friends of the High Line*, 2015); *Auto Body Collision* (Carnegie Museum of Art, 2015); *STRIKE* (Mousse, 2015); and *The Sun as Error* (Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 2009). This year she produced “*Stray: A Graphic Tone*,” an LP featuring the poems of Susan Howe and Nathaniel Mackey (Fonograf/ROMA) 2019, which will be available at the gallery. In 2018, Ebner was named chairperson of the Photography Department at Pratt Institute’s School of Art. She currently lives and works in Brooklyn.

For more information please contact the gallery at 415-576-9300 or info@altmansiegel.com.